

REMARKS

Claims 1, 12 and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 3-6, 13-15, 17-20, and 24-25 are either in original form or as previously presented. Claims 7-11, 16, and 22-23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 26-28 have been added. Claims 1-6, 12-15, 17-21 and 24-28 are currently pending. Reconsideration of the pending claims in view the above Amendments and following Remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action stated that claims 1-6, 13-15, 17-20, 24 and 25 were allowed and that claim 12 was objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Appreciation is extended to Examiners Nichols and Shaver for the allowance of the above-identified claims.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Accordingly, claim 12 is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from now allowable claim 12. New dependent claims 26-28 (originally claims 8, 9, and 10, respectively), now depend from allowable claim 12. A notice that claims 21, and 26-28 are in condition for allowance is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Nichols disagree, he is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

The Office Action stated that Claims 7, 8, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,849,096 to Kibele (hereinafter "Kibele"). In order to place the subject application in condition for allowance, claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 21 has been amended to depend from now allowable claim 12 and claim 8, now new claim 26 also depends from allowable claim 12. Accordingly, all pending claims in the subject application are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Nichols disagree, he is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss.

The Office Action stated that claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,814,540 to Southerwick (hereinafter "Southerwick"). In order to place the subject application in condition for allowance, claim 22 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, all pending claims in the subject application are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Nichols disagree, he is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss.

The Office Action stated that claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,630,006 to Leach (hereinafter "Leach"). In order to place the subject application in condition for allowance, claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, all pending claims in the subject application are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Nichols disagree, he is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

The Office Action stated that Claim 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kibele. Claims 10 and 11 are now new claims 27 and 28, respectively and depend from allowable claim 12. Accordingly, all pending claims in the subject application are in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should Examiner Nichols disagree, he is strongly encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any fees are determined to be due in connection with filing this Amendment or any other paper filed during prosecution of this application, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any such fees to deposit account no. 20-0090. If any extension of time is required in connection with filing this Amendment or any other paper filed during prosecution of this application, such an extension of time is petitioned for and hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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